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Middlebush Reformed Church
(N.J.)

Centennial historical
account of the Middlebush

1834 = = 1934

Centennial Historical Account



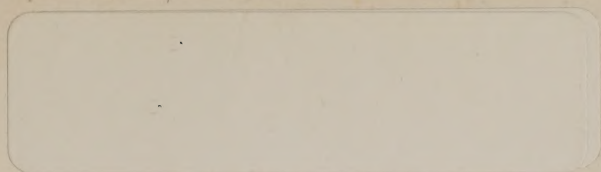
"Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker."

Middlebush Reformed Church

Middlebush, N. J.

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1834

1934

Centennial Historical Account

OF THE

MIDDLEBUSH REFORMED CHURCH, MIDDLEBUSH, N. J.

MAY 25, 1934



COMMITTEE

Rev. John A. Thomson, Chairman

Elsie B. Stryker

Elton H. L. Wade

Mrs. Judson V. Cain

Ralph W. Thomson

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AN APPRECIATION

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Committee in charge of the Centennial Celebration for its excellent work in preparing this booklet and in its untiring efforts in working out such an interesting and appropriate program. Especially are we grateful to Miss Eisie B. Stryker for her painstaking efforts in writing the Historical Account and in compiling so many worth while facts and events of interest from the records of the years gone by. Fortunate indeed are we to have one in our congregation who so unselfishly gives of herself to the varied church activities and is the guiding hand in so many of our young peoples' programs. It is a worthy service to have set before us, in a form interesting to read, those things of the past which we too soon forget.

THE CONSISTORY.

FOREWORD

MY CHURCH

Before I was born MY CHURCH gave to my parents ideals of life and love that made my home a place of strength and beauty.

In helpless infancy MY CHURCH joined my parents in consecrating me to Christ and in baptizing me in His name.

MY CHURCH enriched my childhood with the Romance and Religion and the lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truths MY CHURCH taught become radiant, insistent, and inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence MY CHURCH heard the surge of my soul and She guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars.

When first my heart knew the strange awakening of love MY CHURCH taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections; She sanctified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, MY CHURCH drew me to the Friend of all the Weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless.

When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin, MY CHURCH has believed in me and wooingly She has called me back to live within the heights of myself.

Now have come the children dearer to me than life itself and MY CHURCH is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and Christly living.

MY CHURCH calls me to Her heart. She asks my service and my loyalty. She has a right to ask it! I will help Her to do for others what She has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help Her keep aflame and aloft the torch of a living faith.

William Henry Boddy, D. D.



Old Church

"Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is burned up with fire; and all our pleasant things are laid waste." Isaiah 64:11.

The text of Mr. Thomson's first sermon after burning of this Church.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

For one hundred years the land upon which our Church stands has been "holy ground." For one hundred years (except for a brief interval in 1917 and 1918) our "temple of the Lord" has been a landmark along the old Middlebush Road—itsself dating back to 1690—and a silent sermon to the passerby.

On March 19, 1834, a group of men gathered at the home of Ralph Voorhees, now the Charles Van Middlesworth homestead, as a "committee appointed by the classis of New Brunswick to organize a Church of Jesus Christ at Middlebush," as stated in the original minutes. For many years the people of the vicinity had worshipped in the Churches of Hillsborough (Millstone), Six Mile Run (Franklin Park), and the First Church of New Brunswick. However, as early as 1817 there was a regular monthly lecture on Sabbath afternoons, at private homes of Middlebush, often where there were aged or infirm ones. These services were carried on by the Pastors of the New Brunswick Church, other services also being conducted by the other Mother Churches.

During the year of 1830 preliminary steps were taken toward organizing a Church for the country section of the New Brunswick congregation. After three years of waiting, plans finally materialized, the Consistory was elected, and the Church was organized with 39 members—20 from New Brunswick, 11 from Millstone, and 8 from Franklin Park.

The names of the original Consistory should certainly go on record at this Centenary occasion.

Elders

John C. Wycoff
Frederick F. Van Liew
Henry N. Demott
John Stothoff

Deacons

John I. Auten
Ralph Voorhees
Benjamin Wycoff
Cornelius Van Doren

We are often reminded that "The Church" is the people of God and not an edifice. So before there was a structure for worship, there existed a Church of God in Middlebush. It was

not long after the organization meeting, however, that the people waited for a building. The committee in charge worked rapidly, so that by September of that year, (1834) it could be used for services. It was during the middle of that month that Rev. Jacob I. Schultz preached as a candidate, the shavings having been brushed aside on Saturday, and temporary seats arranged.

Although several other candidates were heard, Mr. Schultz must have met with great favor, for the minutes of a consistory meeting of October 6, 1834, state "On motion resolved unanimously that Consistory take measures immediately to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of calling Rev. Mr. Schultz as pastor of this Church." He accepted and was installed on the following December 30th.

Two days before the installation, the congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Cornelius Van Doren, Senior, father of the Deacon mentioned above. He died on his way home from Church. The Van Doren family history contains much of interest in the early history of Middlebush. Two brothers, Abram and Christian, came here in 1723 and purchased several acres of land. Alche, the wife of Christian, is distinguished for her christian and moral excellences. She was the mother of seventeen children, (one of them, the Cornelius whose death is mentioned above), and all of whom, except one, were married and raised families. The exception was Roeloff, who died as the result of an accident, when a young man. His grave on the homestead, was the first in our Cedar Grove Cemetery. At the time of Mrs. Van Doren's death she had, besides the seventeen children, 129 grandchildren, 200 great grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren—352 descendants in all! She had a daughter Alche, and eight grand-daughters by that name. The land upon which our Church was built was purchased from a Joseph Van Doren.

Just eleven months after the organization meeting, the Church building was dedicated—on February 19, 1835. Mr. Schultz preached a sermon from Psalm 132:14 "This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it."

The first pastorate lasted but a little less than four years, when Rev. Schultz was unable to continue because of ill health. He had done a good work. The membership of the Church had become nearly 100 at the time he left.

Rev. John Addison Van Doren became the second Pastor in 1838, and continued for twenty-seven years. The Church became strong and prominent during his ministry, nearly three hundred being received into this communion, and several finan-

cial undertakings accomplished. A parsonage was purchased in 1842, together with a barn and one acre of land. This parsonage, although very much enlarged and remodeled at various times, continued in use as such until 1927, when it was sold to Mr. A. Willard Totten, whose family occupies it today. It seems a strange co-incidence that Mr. Totten was a grandson of Rev. Van Doren, the first Pastor who lived there.



School House

Two events of importance to the village occurred during this pastorate. The opening of the Railroad from New Brunswick was celebrated on Dec. 19, 1854. A school-house, northwest of the Church was raised Nov. 10, 1859. It was in this same school-house that many of the sons and daughters of the Church today received their entire grammar-school education under the able teaching of Miss Ida Hummer, who presided there for thirty years (1891-1921). She has also meant much in our Church life, and still does, now being Benevolent Treasurer. The second floor of the building, known as "The lecture room" was used for a long time as a place for Prayer meetings and Sunday School. The school was used until 1916, when it was moved across the road and a stucco building now the "Franklin Township Hall" put up in its stead. The old school house has since been torn down.

The pastorate of Rev. George Swain, from 1866-1868, is spoken of in terms of highest praise. Mr. Swain came as a young man just out of the Seminary. During his two years forty-two persons were received into the Church, half of them on confession of faith. He was a most welcome guest and

speaker at both the Fiftieth and Seventy-fifth Anniversary celebrations.

Perhaps the work of Rev. Stephen Mershon, who was called to this Church in 1869, and called to his heavenly Home in 1874, can be best described by quoting phrases from the resolutions passed by Consistory at his death. He was their beloved Pastor. He faithfully and successfully labored among them. He was dear to their hearts and was a kind and sympathizing friend to them all—and had faithfully labored in their midst and whose labors had been abundantly blessed in the conversion of souls.

He and Mrs. Mershon must surely have been a spiritual store-house. It has been said of them "They walked with God! Christ dwelt within them and the Holy Spirit guided them. They were joyous, happy, loving, and full of faith, hope and courage."

The congregation was overwhelmed with the sadness of having their Shepherd so suddenly cut off in the midst of his usefulness. Mrs. Mershon had also passed away during their sojourn here.*

On the first Sunday in 1875 the Rev. James LeFevre began his labors here, which continued for twenty-seven and a half years. Under his leading the Church prospered and grew, so that when the time of parting came, it was said on all sides, "What will old Middlebush be without Dominie LeFevre and his excellent and interesting family?" It was sincerely felt that his leaving, with his excellent wife "the elect lady and her children" would be a great loss to the whole community, for he was a faithful pastor, preacher and friend. He was a Trustee of Rutgers College for several years, and was honored by that Institution with the degree of D.D. in 1893.

Our Semi-Centennial occurred in 1884, and was celebrated on March 19 with morning and afternoon services. An account in the Daily Home News of March 20 reads: "Middlebush—March 20—March 19 will long be remembered in the annals of this neighborhood. Despite the storm and rain which raged all day long, from an early hour of the morning the people began to come in. Indeed the one car on the Millstone branch was uncomfortably crowded. Faces of divines prominent in the Reformed Church were plentiful, and we noticed, among others, Drs. Campbell, Easton and Woodbridge, Cruikshanks, Jones,

*A biographical sketch of the lives of these two, by their son, Stephen L. Mershon, will be off the press very soon. It notes incidents of their ministrations in Middlebush, and will be in book form.

(Bergen Point) Swain, Talmage, Polhemus, Drs. Demarest, Taylor and others too numerous to mention.

The interior of the Church presented a very handsome appearance, several handsome stands of flowers and calla lilies being noticeable, these and many others being very effectively grouped on the platform.

The music was particularly fine and reflects the highest praise on Miss C. LeFevre, the talented lady organist. The concluding offertory was a particularly fine march from Eli. The visitors were generously cared for, and after all it was fortunate the day was wet, for the Church could never have held the crowds which undoubtedly would have come."

A History of Somerset County published at about this same time (1881) says "Middlebush is a small village near the centre of Franklin Township. The Millstone and New Brunswick Railroad passes through this place. It contains about 25 dwellings, with a population of 84, according to the census of 1880, a Reformed (Dutch) Church organized in 1834, a district school, a high school, a store, a hay press, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright shop, and a post-office." Thus we see that our village has not changed a very great deal in the past fifty years. The high school mentioned was a private school built by, and under the principalship of Mr. J. Newton Voorhees, the father of Miss M. Amanda Voorhees, our Church organist. It was known as "The Middlebush Institute," and the building is that which is now occupied by Mr. Frank Pennell and his family.

On September 18, 1902, Dr. LeFevre conducted a congregational meeting, the purpose of which was to vote on candidates for the new Pastorate. After prayer for guidance and blessing, cards were distributed, and the vote resulted finally in the installation of Rev. John A. Thomson on Nov. 12, 1902. The eighteen year period of his ministry was perhaps the most epochal in our history. We rejoice in having Mr. Thomson living in our community today, and acting as chairman of our Centennial Celebration.

Shortly after his coming here, in 1903, the first of a long series of improvements took place—the installing of sixteen beautiful stained glass windows. Families or individuals gave all but two, these coming from the Christian Endeavor Society and from the congregation in memory of Dr. LeFevre. The following year brought the completion of a long-desired Chapel at the rear of the Church, a most valuable addition.

Just as the year of Jubilee had been especially prosperous and harmonious, so was the seventy-fifth anniversary year. The Church had been thoroughly renovated and redecorated in time



Interior of Old Church

for the celebration, which took place on May 25, 1909 (rather than March 19th, because of the risk of bad weather), with morning and afternoon sessions. Two former Pastors, Dr. George Swain and Dr. James LeFevre, were present and gave addresses. Greetings were brought from the Classis, Rutgers College, New Brunswick Seminary, The Christian Intelligencer, the Ministerial son of the Church, and from the Pastors of the three mother Churches. Rev. David M. Talmage gave the closing address on the subject "What of the Future?" The occasion was described as one of the brightest spots in the history of Middlebush.

The Church life moved on with fresh impetus afterward, each year adding several new members, and the various organizations keeping alive and active. Beginning with the Week of Prayer of 1915, special services were held for three weeks, assistance being given part of that time by Rev. H. A. Eliason, of Sprakers, N. Y. The spiritual life of the Church was greatly quickened, and a Chorus Choir was formed, adding greatly to the services.

On July 2, 1917, came a great tragedy in our Church history—the burning of our beautiful, historic Church. Lightning struck the steeple and in spite of all possible efforts, the entire building was destroyed. A great deal of furniture and some of the books were rescued through the bravery of young and old.

The story of the two years which followed is too long to be printed on this occasion. Worship was held in "Stryker's Hall" (which has been mentioned before as the "Middlebush

Institute" and as the residence of Mr. Frank Pennell and family). Besides the strain and stress of building a new Church, several of the young men were called into the military service of the World War. They were days of severe testing, but also of proving the power and presence of the Lord. On September 7, 1919, a beautiful new Church was dedicated, built of stone from the quarries of Martinsville, N. J., and practically all paid for. We can think of this building in no other way than as a monument to the courage, and power, and faith of Rev. John A. Thomson. Without him as our leader our hands would have been too weak, our faith too feeble, and our history defeat, rather than victory. We pause to pay heartfelt tribute to him, with praise and thanksgiving, to the One who inspired him and gave him to us.*



New Church

The following year Mr. Thomson presented his resignation. This was only accepted after much deliberation on the part of all, including the great consistory and the congregation—and then with deep regret. The regard which was felt for Mr. and Mrs. Thomson was in part expressed, when on October 29, a farewell reception was held in the Chapel for them. The Ladies' Aid Society presented Mrs. Thomson with eighteen five dollar gold pieces for eighteen years of service here, and one ten dol-

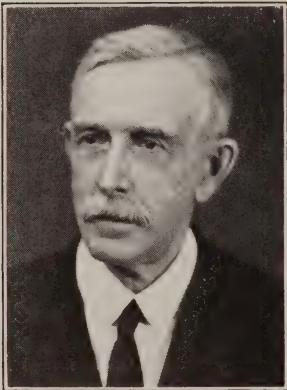
*At a meeting held on May 10, 1934, the Consistory voted to have a tablet placed in our Church in appreciation of the work of Rev. and Mrs. John A. Thomson.

lar gold piece for the many years to come. Mr. Thomson received ninety-four dollars with the promise of more to come.

It would help in our appreciation of Mr. Thomson to set before us in figures, the astonishing amount of money raised during his pastorate, for **extra** purposes:

Stained glass windows, approximately.....	\$ 720.00
New Chapel	2,500.00*
1908 Renovation	2,200.00
1911 Parsonage repairs	800.00
Enlarging Choir Loft.....	40.00
Parsonage Garage, approximately.....	196.08
Repair of Church Windows (Totten Trust Fund)	104.00
New Church	33,220.51
Total.....	\$39,780.59

During all of this time of expending such large sums of money upon ourselves, the benevolent contributions did not suffer. In fact, they exceeded the average!



John A. Thomson

With all his concern for the temporal needs of the Church, Mr. Thomson's chief concern was for the spiritual. So often his prayer was "Lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes of Thy Zion everywhere." One cannot count the number of young men and women who are today facing life's problems with stronger faith and higher ideals because they were brought up under the Gospel preaching and the Gospel practice of Mr. Thomson.

As we sing the hymn "For all the saints who from their labors rest" there are two who were with us during this period, and longer, whom we remember with special love and gratitude, Mrs. John A. Thomson and Mr. J. Calvin Ditmars.

Mrs. Thomson was truly an ideal minister's wife. Her Christian home and the Christian spirit in which she met every situ-

*Part of this fund had been accumulating over a period of years.

ation of joy or of suffering, poured out a blessed influence upon the entire community.

"Uncle Cal," as everyone called Mr. Ditmars, was a pillar of the Church in its truest sense. His whole heart was in the service of the Lord, and that service was expressed as sexton for many years, and always as a faithful attendant at all meetings—none of which seemed complete without his hearty singing or fervent prayer. The spiritual welfare, especially of the young, lay heavily upon his heart. For these two, and for others too numerous to mention, who so faithfully labored among us, we gratefully sing, "Alleluia!"

Rev. Frank Alvin Langwith was installed as Pastor Nov. 9, 1921. When ushered into our large parsonage he asked if we published a tourist's guide to the place! He was an excellent preacher, and the affection which is still felt for him is evidenced by the number of times he is called back to officiate at occasions of joy or of sorrow.

The high water mark for denominational benevolences in all our history was reached under Mr. Langwith's pastorate—going up to over \$900.00 in 1924. The average for ten of the previous years was \$398.00, while at present our average is about \$320.00



F. Alvin Langwith

In his 1924 report to Classis, Mr. Langwith mentioned a condition in our community, increasing then, and even more wide-spread today—that of the large number of foreign-born in our midst. This had decidedly changed the Church situation and presented a problem upon which he was working. All about us today are the farms once occupied by our forefathers with their large Church-going families, and now, by peoples of many nationalities and largely of the Jewish or Catholic faith. In the record of marriages for the above-mentioned year, our Pastor noted a ceremony performed at our Church by himself and a Rev. Paul Hamborszky, where the bride spoke Hungarian only, and the groom English only. Both languages were used in the service.

When Mr. Langwith presented his resignation in June, 1926, real regret was felt, together with the realization that he was a person well qualified for a larger work.



Russell W. Shepherd

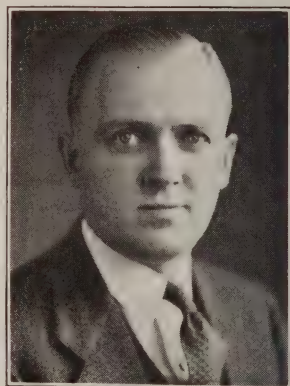
Two Stated Supplies occupied our pulpit for the next three and a half years, Mr. Harold W. Nelson and Russell W. Shepherd.

Mr. Nelson came from the National Bible Institute of New York, in November, 1926, having just completed his Seminary course. He was with us fourteen months, during which time he had the mis-fortune of being very ill with typhoid fever. In the enthusiasm of his youth, and the conviction of his message, he attracted very large numbers of people to our services, particularly on Sunday evenings. His musical ability was also a great help. A series of evangelistic services were held, and thirteen persons

were received into the fellowship of the Church on confession of faith. Mr. Nelson's work and influence among the young people was one of his great contributions, as were also his Prayer meeting services at which time he conducted a series of studies of the book of Revelation, long to be remembered.

Mr. Nelson's resignation took effect January 1, 1928, and he was followed almost immediately by Mr. Russell W. Shepherd, an exceptionally fine preacher, who stayed until May 28, 1930. During the summer of 1928, the new parsonage was built opposite the Church, which he and Mrs. Shepherd were first to occupy.

One of the outstanding things to be remembered in this pastorate was the "Feast, Faith and Fun" evenings. As the name suggests, there were refreshments, a Worship period, and a social time. They were very largely attended, and involved careful preparation and often much time in appropriately decorating.



Harold W. Nelson

Another pleasant memory is the bus trips to New York on occasional Sunday evenings. Such places of interest as The Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the Chinese Mission were visited.

While Mr. Shepherd was with us he completed his theological training in the New Brunswick and Princeton Seminaries.

In August, 1930, the Church Bulletin made its first appearance. It was instituted by Ralph W. Thomson, who drew the cover design, a sketch of our stone Church.* The order of service was found on the first inside page, followed by the weekly notices, and last of all the members of the Consistory and Church and Society officers. Since April, 1931, the work has been done by Elton H. L. Wade. Because of expense, a single sheet has been used since April, 1933. We owe these two Clerks of Consistory a debt of gratitude for the great amount of time and patience they have given to this service.

On January 18, 1931, Rev. Marinus J. Den Herder preached his first sermon as our new Pastor. He at once endeared himself to the entire community, for he was, as his name being translated, means, a "Shepherd." He kept a carefully indexed list of his "Flock," and made sure that each family received at least two calls a year, one a spiritual call and the other social. In case of illness, he was as faithful a visitor as the village doctor (Dr. J. Howard Cooper), and he never left without having commended the patient to the care of the Great Physician.

At Thanksgiving 1931, and Easter 1932, special offerings were taken for the purpose of decreasing the debt incurred in building the new parsonage. \$528.00 were thus realized, which together with a contribution from Mr. George Blakeley of \$450.00 (in memory of his father and mother and again thru the influence of Mr. Thomson) cleared the debt. This was but one instance of Mr. Den Herder's faith in prayer and dependence upon God. He truly "attempted great things for God, and expected great things from God."



Marinus J. Den Herder

During the summer of 1932 a very successful Daily Vacation Bible School was held for four weeks, with a staff of six teachers, including Mr. Den Herder, and an en-

*This sketch also appears on the cover of this book.

rollment of 62 children, some of whom came from surrounding communities.

That Fall a meeting of the Consistory and officers of all the Church organizations was called for the purpose of arranging the year's program without conflict of dates. At this time it was also decided that each Society should be responsible for one Sunday evening monthly Church service, there being just enough to nicely round out the year.

As the Church life was thus progressing smoothly and happily, a great cloud overshadowed us. "Our beloved leader and sincere friend" (as he is described in the resolution of the Consistory) became ill, and underwent an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md. Before he entered the operating room he said "If I do not return, then my work will have been completed; it is the will of God, and I am satisfied." His work was completed, and a sorrowing congregation was left again without a Pastor, but not without having been richly blessed thru his ministry.

We were cared for in a very fatherly way for many weeks by Rev. John A. Thomson, retired and living in our community. The gratitude of the consistory was recorded in the minute books of the Church, and in the hearts of the people. Several candidates were also heard over quite a long period.



Cornelius M. Van Leeuwen

And now we come to the eve of our One Hundredth Anniversary. The Congregation has called Mr. Cornelius M. Van Leeuwen, who graduates from the New Brunswick Theological seminary in May, and whose ordination and installation we anticipate with pleasure as a part of our Centennial Celebration.

We look forward to beginning our second century with renewed power, and trust that all will forget "those things which are behind" which have hindered the progress of the Kingdom in this place; will "remember all the way which the Lord our God led us"; and will reach "forth unto those things which are before," pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

OUTSTANDING DATES

GIFTS

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF INTEREST

CHURCH OFFICIARY

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

MEMBERSHIP ROLL

OUTSTANDING DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE MIDDLEBUSH CHURCH

March 19, 1834	Middlebush Church organized.
June 12, 1834	Certificate of Incorporation of "The Reformed Dutch Church at Middlebush" entered in the Clerk's office of Somerset County.
June 7, 1834	Cornerstone laid, with Rev. Dr. Janeway officiating.
Aug. 7th and 8th, 1834	Church building raised, with festivities and merriment.
Sept., 1834	Rev. Jacob I. Schultz heard as candidate.
Dec. 30, 1834	Rev. Jacob I. Schultz installed.
Feb. 19, 1835	Dedication of Church building.
Nov. 26, 1838	Call extended to Rev. John Addison Van Doren.
1839	A barn built on Church lot, costing \$207.28.
1842	First Parsonage purchased.
Nov. 7, 1859	Decided to build 20 tying sheds.
Spring 1866	Rev. George Swain called.
1867	First renovation of Church building.
Spring 1869	Parsonage greatly enlarged.
Feb. 1869	Rev. Stephen Mershon called.
April 11, 1874	Death of Rev. Mershon.
January, 1875	Rev. James LeFevre began Pastorate.
Feb. 25, 1880	Purchase of Pipe Organ.
March 19, 1884	Semi-Centennial of Church.
March, 1891	Envelope system for Church support introduced.
1892	Extensive repairs to Church and Parsonage.
Nov. 1, 1902	Rev. John A. Thomson became Pastor.
1903	Sixteen stained glass windows installed.
Feb. 22, 1905	Formal opening of new Chapel.
1908	Thorough repairs and improvements to Church building.
May 25, 1909	Seventy-fifth Anniversary celebrated.
1910	Mrs. Benjamin Totten Repair Fund left to Church.
1911	Parsonage repairs, including hot water furnace and interior remodeling.
January, 1915	Revival services led by Rev. G. A. Eliason, and Chorus Choir instituted.
1916	Church made beneficiary of Dinah Bennett Estate.
August, 1916	Large fire in center of village destroying Parsonage barn.
1916	Pipe line installed, bringing water to Church from the Van Middlesworth place, the money having been raised by "The Sunshine Workers."
April, 1917	Stained glass windows repaired at cost of \$104.00.
July 2, 1917	MIDDLEBUSH CHURCH TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK THE STEEPLE.

May 5, 1918	Cornerstone of New Church laid, Dr. John H. Raven delivering the address.
Jan. 19, 1919	Bell in the New Church tower rung for first time from 7:30-8:00 in celebration of the ratification of the Prohibition Amendment.
Sept. 7, 1919	Dedication of New Church at 3 P.M.
Nov. 9, 1921	Rev. Frank Alvin Langwith installed.
Fall of 1921	Extensive repairs to Parsonage.
April, 1922	Duplex Envelope System introduced (Current Expenses and Benevolences).
1924	Electric Lights, through Public Service, brought to Middlebush. The Parsonage was wired at this time.
Sept, 18, 1924	Decided to build permanent Harvest Home Kitchen, using four sheds on northwest end.
Aug. 31, 1925	Church granted County right of 18 feet or less, of northeast corner of lawn to widen road.
Nov. 1, 1926	Mr. Harold W. Nelson engaged as Stated Supply.
August, 1927	Parsonage sold to Mr. A. Willard Totten.
Dec. 5, 1927	Mr. Russell W. Shepherd engaged as Stated Supply.
Summer of 1928	New Parsonage built opposite Church (north side of road).
Aug. 24, 1930	First issue of Church Bulletin.
Feb. 13, 1931	Rev. Marinus J. Den Herder installed.
June 27-	
July 22, 1932	Daily Vacation Bible School.
July 29, 1932	Harvest Home Kitchen enclosed.
Nov. 23, 1932	Death of Rev. Marinus J. Den Herder.
April 4, 1934	Call extended to Cornelius M. Van Leeuwen, to take effect June 1st.

GIFTS

As we look about our Church today, we see many gifts which should be remembered with gratitude:

The **Pulpit Furniture** was secured during Dr. LeFevre's time, possibly in 1892 when quite extensive repairs and remodeling were undertaken. These articles came entirely from friends of the Pastor, outside of the Congregation. It is told that a certain rich lady in New York, whose name we do not know, wished to present the chair in which Dr. LeFevre would sit. This is the large center one still used by our Pastors.

The **eight Chairs** for Elders and Deacons were presented on Dec. 10, 1892, as a gift of John S. Hasbrouck, the father-in-law of Edward Lefevre, son of the Pastor.

Our **Individual Communion Service** came in September, 1901, as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Abram S. Totten, given by their son Lafferd of New Brunswick. Another son, John L. Totten, is second on our Honor Roll today.

In June, 1903, Mr. V. M. W. Suydam of New Brunswick, presented the **Baptismal Font**, in memory of his parents who were among the founders of the Church. Mrs. Suydam was the last of the 39 Charter members to be taken Home, at the age of 92.

The **Pulpit Bible** was a Seventy-fifth Anniversary gift from the Christian Endeavor Society.

All of these furnishings, given before 1917, were, of course, rescued from the burning building on July 2, at the risk of lives.

Our **Communion Table** is a memorial to Mr. Garretson Hageman (father of Peter Hageman in our Consistory), who died in 1915. It was given by his wife, at the time we were furnishing the new Church.

The **Church Bell**, weighing 1,325 pounds, was the gift of a Young Men's Bible class, called "The Busy Brothers." This class also took care of grading and seeding the new Church lawn.

The **Stained Glass Window** of the Woman meeting the Saviour at the Well of Samaria, in our Sunday School room, is a memorial to Annie F. Smith, given by her brother, Mr. William Cook.

The **Church Pews** were the gift of Mr. George Blakeley of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, a College friend of Rev. John A. Thomson, and the son of an old Middlebush resident.

The **Lighting System** was paid for through the generosity of Mr. William Cook, in October, 1917.

The **Silver Offering Plates** were given by a friend who did not wish to have his name known.



JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Top Row, left to right, Adult Advisors:

Elizabeth Totten Elsie Stryker, Mrs. Herbert Mansbridge, Lillian Porte, Mrs. Ralph Thomson, Mrs. Harold Wade.

The two **Silk Flags** came from the children of our Church. The American Flag was given by a Junior Christian Endeavor Society which

was organized in 1924. They disbanded later, leaving a bank balance, which, with interest, was inherited by a new Society formed in October, 1931. With this fund, and more which they raised themselves, they purchased and presented the Christian Flag on Dec. 13, 1931.

Mrs. Marinus J. Den Herder presented almost the entire personal **Library of Rev. M. J. Den Herder**, consisting of approximately two hundred and eighty-five volumes of Commentaries, text books, devotional books, and fiction, to be left in the Parsonage Study for the use of future Ministers.

The latest gift is that of one hundred **Chapel Chairs** given in February, 1934, by the Ladies' Aid Society.

GIFTS OF MONEY

The will of Dinah Bennett, 1917, made our Church the Residuary Legatee of \$6,742.00.

The will of Mary Louise Totten (Mrs. Benjamin), 1910, left a Trust Fund of \$1,000.00, the interest on which is to be used for repairs to the Church property.

The Ladies' Aid contributes regularly, fifty dollars twice a year toward Church expenses.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF INTEREST

"Giving Visits" or "Donations" or "Reunions" were events of importance from the earliest days. The first one recorded is April 20, 1836, for Rev. Schultz. They were discontinued at the close of Mr. Thomson's pastorate but have left many happy memories of good times and evidences of great generosity on the part of the people.

* * * *

Harvest Homes, first called "The Harvest Home and Peach Festival," have been held since 1886, on Labor Day. They were doubtlessly the outgrowth of a revival held in the woods back of the place now owned by Mr. Fred L. Bascom, on the Fourth of July. Mr. DeWitt Woolsey remembers one as early as 1872, when he and Mr. Bergen Staats collected the milk for the home-made ice-cream. Judge Voorhees often gave speeches there, as well as the students of Mr. J. Newton Voorhees' institute.

In 1894, the older people grew discouraged because of the great amount of work involved, and decided to give up the Harvest Home. A group of young people gathered at the Van Middlesworth home and took hold of the situation by voting to run it themselves that year. It was a great success. Since then there has been no break except in 1916, when it was omitted because of the infantile paralysis epidemic. The highest amount cleared was \$833.26 in 1931, and the second highest, \$803.23 in 1928.

* * * *

One of the customs of our forefathers was to hold a Consistory Prayer service for an hour before the Church service. In 1839 a resolution was passed that this prayer service begin half an hour previous to the divine worship, but again in 1851 it was extended to three-quarters of an hour. There were also frequent meetings to pray especially for rain, and a regular monthly meeting to pray for missions.

* * * *

In the early days the clerk frequently noted the appointment of a committee to wait upon a Church member to inquire why he absented himself from the house of God and the Table of the Lord.

* * * *

The first mention of an entertainment at the Church was Dec. 27, 1845, when Mr. Perlee, teacher of Sacred Music in the Middlebush School house requested permission of Consistory to hold a concert of sacred music in this Church and to take up a collection to defray expenses. His request was granted, and the proceeds were used to purchase coal for use in the Church.

* * * *

On June 12, 1875, a committee reported that "Mr. Cox and his daughter" had been secured as chorister and organist of the Church. The daughter, later became Mrs. Henry Staats. Her husband is a faithful Elder in our Church today, and three of her grand-children, Barbara, Susan and Mary Pomeroy, sing in our Junior Choir.

* * * *

In 1880 the services of a boy (Samuel Little) were procured at five cents an hour to blow the organ for the organist to practice.

* * * *

The mention of women upon committees was not frequent in the early days. However, on Nov. 7, 1834, it was resolved that "The females in our congregation be invited to meet on Tuesday afternoon next at F. F. Van Liew's to make arrangements for dressing the pulpit and procuring Communion furniture, etc. for our Church." Much later, in 1891, it was moved that a committee of young ladies be appointed to canvas the congregation for the envelope system for general congregational purposes.

* * * *

Our "Manse Children" are located as follows:

Stephen L. Mershon is President of "The Symes Foundation" at 235 East 49th St., New York City. He and the youngest child Emma, are the only ones left in their family of ten.

The Misses Cornelia and Esther De Witt LeFevre live at 6 West Cliff St., Somerville, N. J.

Dr. J. Claude Thomson is Professor of Chemistry at Nanking University, Nanking, China.

Ralph W. Thomson lives in Middlebush and is an Elder in the Church and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

J. Harold Thomson is Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Little Falls, N. Y.

John and Maxine Den Herder live with their mother at 14 East 6th St., Holland, Michigan.

Bruce Shepherd, and his new little brother, David, have lately become the Manse children of the Presbyterian Church of Endicott, N. Y.

Besides David Shepherd, other children of our Ministers, born after their parents left here, are Berniece Langwith and Harold and Barbara Nelson.

* * * *

We have an Honor Roll of persons who have belonged to our Church for fifty years or more:

Mrs. De Witt Woolsey (Kate Kinney).....	64 years
John L. Totten.....	63 years
Mrs. John L. Totten (Sarah Van Middlesworth).....	60 years
De Witt Woolsey.....	58 years
Theodora S. Bennett.....	54 years

Both of these couples have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries. Mrs. Woolsey has attended the Church for over 75 years. Mr. and Mrs. John L. Totten have twenty-four sons, daughters, and grandchildren in our congregation today.

In this connection we should mention that:

Mrs. Mary Ellen De Hart, joined.....	67 years ago
Mrs. Delia Ditmars joined.....	61 years ago
Miss Katherine Garretson joined.....	61 years ago
Henry P. Staats joined.....	58 years ago

All of these members have, for a period of years, been dismissed to other Churches, but are back on our Register today.

Still one other person belongs on our Honor Roll. April 21, 1934 marked thirty years of the service of Miss Amanda Voorhees as organist of our Church. We doubt if we could count a half dozen times when she has been absent from her post, and never a time when she has been tardy.

* * * *

The Ministerial Sons of our Church:

J. Newton Schultz	Benjamin V. D. Wyckoff
H. W. F. Jones	Bergen B. Staats
J. W. Beardslee	Cornelius Polhemus
N. H. Van Arsdale	Cornelius P. Ditmars
Isaac P. Brokaw	Isaac Sperling
Ralph Watson Brokaw	John Harold Thomson

Missionaries:

David M. Talmage—China	Mary Brokaw—Japan
Martin N. Wyckoff—Japan	James Claude Thomson—China
Ruth L. Ische—Kentucky Mountains	

Trained Leaders in Religious Education:

(The Biblical Seminary in New York)

Elsie B. Stryker	Julia V. D. Totten
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In training at Westminster Choir School, Princeton:

Helen Virginia Totten

* * * *

The following members of our Church today are direct descendants of Charter members:

Miss Dora Bennett is the grand-daughter of Mrs. Ann Bennett Probasco.

Miss Mary Amanda Voorhees is the great-grand-daughter of Mary Boice Voorhees (widow of Peter G.).

Mrs. Elmer T. Smith (Alice Voorhees), and daughters Gladys and

Beatrice, are descendants of Jeremiah and Aletta Wyckoff Voorhees, the grandparents of Mrs. Smith.

Peter Hageman is the great-great nephew of Ida, Jane and Elizabeth Garretson.

* * * *

Eighteen of our twenty-nine members of Junior Christian Endeavor are, by direct line, in the fourth generation of Middlebush Church members.

* * * *

Our Church Register notes three unusually interesting members:

Colonel Ruth Goshen,

The Middlebush Giant, who died Feb. 12, 1889, shortly after his confession.

Ernest Peters,

A young Indian, who joined on confession, June 3, 1899.

Rachel Saxon,

A colored woman who joined 62 years ago, and who passed away Dec. 31, 1929 at the age of at least 101 years. "Aunt Rachel," as she was affectionately called by everyone, was a faithful attendant as long as she was able. She walked a long distance of a mile and a half each way to Church, even when she was bent and crippled.

* * * *

The first child to be baptized after our Church was organized was Ellen Garretson Van Nostrand, on June 7, 1834, who became the wife of Peter Sylvester. The building having not yet been raised, she was baptized on the Cornestone, the day it was laid.

The first children to be baptized in the new Church were:

John Voorhees Totten, great-grandson of Rev. J. A. Van Doren, second pastor of the Church.

John Higgins Van Cleef.

Warren Wilbur Van Cleef.

William Smith Van Cleef, all sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Van Cleef.

* * * *

Our World War Honor Roll:

Lewis Kohler, killed in action

John Harold Thomson, severely wounded at the Front.

George John A. Perpente, overseas Lauren Archibald

John Van Middlesworth, overseas Garrett W. Voorhees

John Norton, overseas Norman Hobbs

John H. Woolsey, overseas George Scott

Henry C. Jonas, overseas Ralph W. Thomson

W. Nevin Kline, overseas Albert Agans

L. Guy Totten, overseas

* * * *

The sixteen Stained Glass windows in the old Church were given by, or in memory of:

Rev. John Addison Van Doren

Rev. James LeFevre

John Stothoff

Abram B. Voorhees

Jeremiah and Aletta Voorhees

R. Staats Van Doren

Jonathan Smith

Annie F. Smith

Ida, Jane, and Elizabeth Garretson

The Polhemus Family

J. Pearsall Campbell

Benjamin Totten

William Vreeland

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wyckoff

The John Bennett Family

The Christian Endeavor Society

Mr. Thomson preached a very fine sermon explaining the meaning of these windows, from the text "A window shalt thou make to the ark," Genesis 6:16, which was repeated by request. Four were Biblical pictures and twelve emblematic of the Christian life. The pictures were The Woman meeting the Saviour at the Well of Samaria (the Annie F. Smith window); Mary Magdalene in grief at the empty sepulchre, while Christ stood, unknown, behind her; Mary at the feet of the Master (the LeFevre window); and the Good Shepherd with His Lambs (the Rev. J. A. Van Doren window). A large C. E. was in the center of the Christian Endeavor window.

A few years later additional windows were placed in the front of the Church.

* * * *

Some Facts About the Two Churches

	The Old	The New
Cost	\$ 3,989.25½	\$ 33,220.51
Parsonage	1,300.00	8,900.00
Organ	1,046.75	2,250.00

Subscriptions were circulated to raise money to build the old Church. A committee went to New York to solicit aid and succeeded in receiving \$200.00 from the Missionary Society of New York, for the support of the Gospel in our Congregation. They were also encouraged to apply to the New York Churches.

There were 274 contributors to the above mentioned amount needed to build and furnish the new Church. The contributions ranged from fifty cents to \$7,000.00 (by Mrs. Elizabeth Rodman Voorhees). Among other receipts were \$8,200.00 insurance; \$16.50 from sale of junk; \$353.28 from the Totten Trust Fund for the organ; \$255.05 for the Bell, from "The Busy Brothers."

* * * *

The following documents and articles, in a sealed copper box, were placed in the Cornerstone of the New Church, May 5th, 1918:

1. Copies of the 50th and 75th Anniversary Pamphlets.
2. A copy of the Christian Intelligencer.
3. A copy of the Mission Field of the Reformed Church in America.
4. A copy of the Somerset Church News containing a picture of the old church and an account of its burning on July 2, 1917.
5. A copy of the New Brunswick Home News, of the Unionist Gazette and the Somerset Messenger.
6. Two coins of 1917—a dime and a nickle.
7. A copy of the proceedings of the Particular Synod of New Brunswick for 1917.
8. A copy of the minutes of the congregational meeting when it was resolved to undertake the task of building a new Church edifice, to secure the necessary funds for that purpose, and to appoint committees to take charge of the work.
9. The names of the present members of the Consistory, and a list of the names of the present members of the Church.
10. A very old map of the village—approximately 1812.
11. World War Honor Roll.

OFFICIARY OF THE CHURCH

Elders

Harry W. Kline
 Peter C. Hageman
 Henry P. Staats
 Ralph W. Thomson

Deacons

William S. Gulick
 Elton H. L. Wade
 C. Irving Van Cleef
 Edgar Van Middlesworth

Officers of the Consistory

President Harry W. Kline
 Clerk Elton H. L. Wade
 Financial Treasurer Ralph W. Thomson*
 Benevolent Treasurer Ida Hummer

Organist

M. Amanda Voorhees

Sexton

Harry S. Totten



Consistory

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent Ralph W. Thomson
 Assistant Superintendent Elton H. L. Wade
 Secretary and Treasurer Hilda M. Pennell
 Superintendent of Primary Department..... Bertha Van Cleef
 Cradle-Roll Superintendent Mrs. Joseph A. Roach
 Home Department Superintendent Ida Hummer

Teachers

Bertha Van Cleef
 Beatrice Smith
 Ethel Amerman
 Harriett J. Voorhees

Lauren S. Archibald
 Mrs. Eimer T. Smith
 Elsie B. Stryker
 Ralph W. Thomson

*Newly elected to succeed Lewis Stryker who held this office since 1920.



Main Department of Sunday School

The Sunday School has for a good many years played a very important role in the life of the Middlebush Reformed Church. It is the oldest of the many church organizations and probably started in a small unassuming way without any definite knowledge of what it was to become. Prior to 1850 there had been some kind of an organization but perhaps had not been wholly successful. Our oldest record gives us this information, "Pursuant to notice given, the friends of the Sabbath School—met at the house of Ralph Voorhees on Monday the 20th of May 1850 for the purpose of reorganizing the Sabbath School." At that meeting a full list of officers was elected with H. V. DeMott as president and John Stothoff as superintendent. Ralph Voorhees and John De Mott were placed on a committee to draw up the constitution which was presented at the next meeting, October 10, 1850 and adopted.

The usual practice was to hold the Sabbath School sessions at 3 o'clock in the afternoon beginning each year the first of May and continuing through the month of October. An effort was made in the fall of 1860 to continue the work of the schools through the winter months but this as other early attempts to operate the entire year was unsuccessful. Morning session of the school too was tried without success in 1867, but became the usual practice by 1871. The Sabbath School sessions held at the church were not the only ones held within the bounds of the congregation and altho we have no written record of their work we do know that May 23rd 1869 a committee was appointed to confer with the Superintendents of the other schools concerning the union of the several branches into a Congregational Sabbath School. This was done under the pastorate of Rev. Stephen Mershon who evidently took a keen personal interest in this work. So far as records show ministers prior to him showed little interest. The interests of the various Sabbath Schools seemed to be limited to the Public School districts, there being a Sabbath School in the South Middlebush and Union Dale school houses and in all probability a Sabbath School in the old Cedar Grove School House.

Aside from the regular class instruction the Sabbath School from its very beginning rendered a very remarkable library service. Altho the reports of the treasurers during the early years rarely showed re-

ceipts of \$20.00 we note that the Library which seemed to get its support from individual subscriptions and contributions showed large expenditures. It was not unusual for a goal to be set of \$200.00 and from all reports the committees were successful. In contrast to this the expenses for Sunday School supplies were very slight, only a few dollars. There were used, however, lesson books which were undated, suitable for study at any time which were in all probability included in the library expense. New books were often purchased and the old library sent "to some destitute place." Memory work played a very important part as we note from this report in 1867: "Total number of Bible Verses, Hymns, Catechism and Questions on Bible during year—48,555, two or three classes not reporting."

The early Sabbath School from the beginning had a place in its program for benevolences. The missionary offering box was a regular thing. In April 1867 the treasurer reported "\$20.00 paid for the education of heathen youth," and at another time the money sent was "to be devoted to female education in heathen lands."



Primary Department of Sunday School

International papers began to make their appearance about 1870 and they seemed to be a real problem causing much discussion for the next few years before they finally became an accepted course of study. This seemed to be a period of growth and change and women made their first appearance in the official body of the school when it was decided in 1871 that three of the ten members of the board of managers be females.

Unfortunately the record book of the Sunday School from the years 1879 to 1932 has been burned. It appears to have been in one of the automobiles destroyed the Sunday Mr. C. G. Pomeroy's garage burned. Excepting the year 1870 when Rev. S. L. Mershon was superintendent the Middlebush people never called upon their pastor to hold this office but have always found the service of some member of the congregation. The Wyckoff family stands out most noteworthy in the service of the Sunday School, four members of which having served as superintendents. The last to hold this position, Mr. Jacob Wyckoff, served from 1899 to 1914 and is at present Superintendent of Grounds at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Mr. Wyckoff's uncle, Joseph V. D. held the

position three years in the 50's, his father Jacob Sr. served in 1871, and his brother, Benj. V. D. served for two years, 1876-77 while a student in the Seminary.

The high point for individual service goes to Mr. Isaac I. Van Nuys who served as superintendent from 1873 to 1894 with but an intermission of two years when he served as assistant. Wilson N. Brown, father of Mrs. H. W. Kline, served from 1894 to 1899. The fine service rendered by William B. Voorhees as Assistant Superintendent during the early years of the Thomson pastorate is worthy of note. Due to the fact that our Superintendent's work often called him elsewhere on Sundays Mr. Voorhees seemed to many of us as actually our superintendent. Following Jacob Wyckoff in 1914 Abram V. D. Stryker served for four years when in 1919 he was succeeded by Ralph W. Thomson who has since held the office.

The present membership of the School proper is 78, the Home Department numbering 24 and Cradle Roll 8. This enrollment is probably lower than it has been in years gone by but we doubt if the courses of study offered and the teaching staff has ever been better, in fact we believe that it is quite exceptional.

RALPH W. THOMSON.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Officers

President	Mrs. Joseph Roach
1st Vice President	Mrs. Frank C. Pennell
2nd Vice President	Mrs. Charles Sass
Secretary	Mrs. Ralph W. Thomson
Treasurer	Mrs. Fred Hafley

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized April 3, 1881, at a meeting held at the Parsonage for that purpose. Mrs. James LeFevre was elected President, Miss C. A. Wyckoff, Secretary, and Miss Jane Roney, Treasurer.

By constitutional ruling the meetings were held quarterly, and membership dues fixed at five cents a month. The object was to aid the Foreign and Domestic work of the Board.

In order to meet the needs of the Church and neighborhood, the following year a "Mite Society" was formed working in close accord with the Missionary Society and directed by the same officers. Through a series of changes the "Mite Society" in 1907 became our present Ladies' Aid Society.

In 1895 a branch society for young girls known as "The Sunshine Mission Band" was organized through the efforts of Mrs. Van Martyr Voorhees, its first leader, being followed by Mrs. Mary Ellen De Hart who enthusiastically carried on the work for many years.

In 1893 by changes in the constitution, monthly meetings were instituted and program and study courses arranged, resulting in increased activities and more love for the spreading of the Glad Tidings.

The spirit then awakened has come down to those who now carry on the work, and may it be said that there are no Rip Van Winkles doing missionary work in Middlebush in 1934.

IDA HUMMER.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

Officers

President	Lillian M. Porte
Vice President	Perry Bascom
Secretary	Virginia Reed
Treasurer	Frances Dolchy

During the autumn of 1887 Dr. LeFevre prepared the way for a Christian Endeavor Society by a series of meetings which resulted in enthusiasm for the cause, and the organization with 14 charter members on November 27 of that year.

The motto has always been "For Christ and the Church." Thru the years this Society has kept the cause of Christ before them and at an early date started to contribute toward Missions. The cause of the local Church was also dear to their hearts, and many gifts and bits of unsolicited service were given. Besides the more spectacular things (such as installing a stained glass window in the Church, which is mentioned in the Church History), we find that they did such things as paying for plastering and whitewashing of walls, and scrubbing floors. At one time they kept alive the mid-week Church Prayer meetings.

Altho for somewhat over a year the Society did not meet, its life was carried over thru the continuing service of its Flower Committee, Ethel and Susan Amerman, who still faithfully and artistically supply our pulpit with flowers.

The greatest contribution has been in the spiritual growth of its members. Many young people obtained their ability to speak and to pray in public, and their habits of daily devotions, thru the training received in Christian Endeavor, and fidelity to its Pledge.

The Society was re-organized, with the present officers, in February 1934.

ELSIE B. STRYKER.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

Officers

President	Mrs. G. Harold Wade
Vice President	Mrs. Lauren S. Archibald
Secretary and Treasurer	Miss Harriett J. Voorhees

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in March, 1907.

During its existence the aim has been "To aid in the financial prosperity of the Church and to promote sociability in the congregation."

In following out these aims much has been accomplished both in a financial way and in community sociability.

In April 1930, it was decided to divide the ladies of the congregation into four groups, each group to be responsible for a supper or entertainment. One-tenth of the net proceeds of these activities is given to the Ladies' Missionary Society for missions.

In April 1932, we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary. A reception was held and Mrs. J. Claude Thomson, of Nanking, China, spoke about her work there.

Some recent accomplishments of the Society have been the contribution of \$150.00 to the general Church treasury; one hundred new chairs were purchased for the Chapel; the kitchen was refurnished with cupboards and new tables were provided for the dining room.

Each member of the Society is now looking for a way in which she can help the Church and Community.

HARRIETT J. VOORHEES.

THE E. M. M. SOCIETY

Officers

President	Elsie B. Stryker
Vice President	Hilda Pennell
Secretary	Mrs. Sampson Smith
Treasurer	Viola Pennell

The E. M. M. Society had its beginning when a group of young women of the community met at the Middlebush parsonage on May 13th, 1916. With the help of Mrs. John A. Thomson, the seventeen girls then gathered, organized for the purpose of missionary work, and elected as officers: President, Henrietta Dougherty; Vice President, Harriett Voorhees; Secretary, Elsie Campbell; Treasurer, Mabel Stryker. The name was taken from the initial letters of the motto of the Church. "Eendracht Maakt Macht" or "Union Makes Strength."

At the end of the first year, the society had increased to 21 members, had given a ten dollar day Scholarship to the Institute at Annville, Ky., and had sent ten dollars to the General Fund of the Board of Missions.

When the new Church and the new parsonage were built, the E. M. M. members showed their loyalty to the Church and community by giving financial help themselves, and by writing to former Church members to ask for assistance, after searching the records for names.

Since the second anniversary, it has been the custom of the Society to celebrate its birthday with special festivities.

At present there are 28 members, five of whom are charter members. This past year fifty-five dollars was sent to the Mission Boards, also the annual Christmas Box was sent to Kentucky. Besides this, social and Congregational work is included in the program of the E. M. M.'s.

ALIDA TOTTEN (Mrs. Harry S.)

THE JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY

Officers

President	John B. Totten
Vice-President	Nina Totten
Secretary	Barbara Pomeroy
Treasurer	Alan Wade

On October 4, 1931, the Junior Christian Endeavor Society was organized. There were 15 members present, while today we have 29. Miss Elsie Stryker was, and still is, our Superintendent. The first officers elected were: President, William Archibald; Vice-President, Wilfred Meyers; Secretary, John Den Herder; Treasurer, Maxine Den Herder.

Each year we have received certificates of Honorable mention at the State C. E. Conventions, and last year we received a picture of The Good Shepherd for having done the best work in Somerset County.

Some of the things we have done are: make and illustrate our own Hymn books; memorize a number of Bible verses, and facts about our Denomination's missionary work; make posters showing our aims and the meaning of Bible verses; and present a Tom Thumb Wedding.

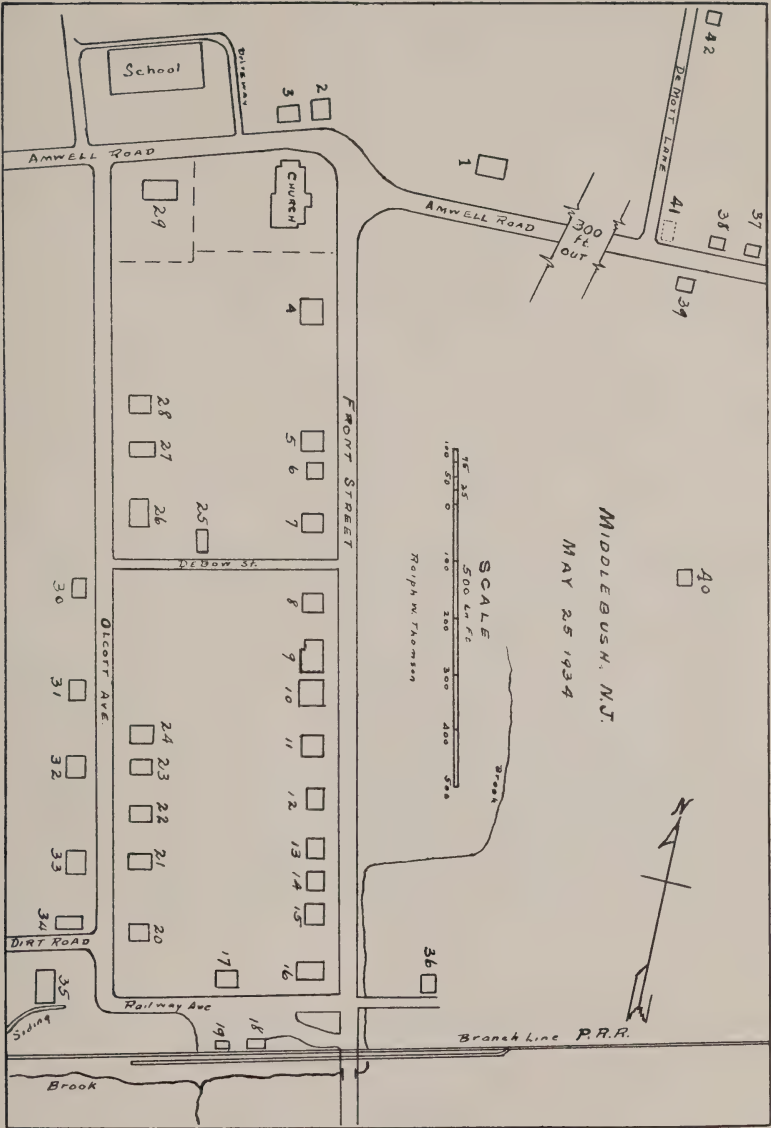
Each Spring we have had a Parents' Day program, when we invite all our friends. Volunteer members of our Society comprise the Junior Choir of the Church, singing once a month. By running errands, helping our parents or saving our own money, we have raised ten dollars to give to our Church as an Anniversary Gift.

BARBARA POMEROY.

LEGEND FOR MAP OF MIDDLEBUSH

1. Mrs. Charles Van Middlesworth and family.
2. Parsonage.
3. Lyda Sperling.
4. John L. Totten and family.
5. M. Amanda Voorhees and Ida Hummer.
6. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roach.
7. Ralph W. Thomson and family.
8. Mrs. F. Amerman and daughters.
9. Chauncey Pomeroy and family and Mrs. Fred Baird.
10. Mrs. A. W. Totten and family.
11. Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Cain and Nellie Drayton.
12. Mrs. Charles Meyers and sons.
13. Mrs. Delia Ditmars and Kate Garretson.
14. Mrs. Mary Ellen De Hart.
15. Owned by John Martin. Occupied by the families of Robert Samuelson and Frank Trent.
16. Elmer T. Smith and family.
17. Store and Post Office (E. T. Smith.)
18. Railroad Station.
19. Freight House.
20. Owned by Elmer T. Smith. Occupied by Benjamin Young and family.
21. Owned by Elmer T. Smith. Occupied by J. E. McConnell and family.
22. Russell Totten and family and Dora Bennett.
23. Owned by Lewis Stryker. Occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Elton Wade.
24. Lewis Stryker and family.
25. The Fire House.
26. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bradley. Arthur Stott and family. Office of Dr. J. Howard Cooper.
27. Owned by Lewis Stryker. Occupied by Frank Pennell and family.
28. Harry Totten and family.
29. Franklin Township Hall. (Two Room School Building).
30. Mrs. A. Grosser and son Paul.
31. Owned by Eimer T. Smith. Occupied by Ralph Ahrens and family.
32. Lauren S. Archibald and family and Harriett Voorhees.
33. A. K. Hageman and Mary Williamson.
34. Blacksmith Shop.
35. Coal Chutes.
36. Mrs. Bertha Totten.
37. Owned by Mrs. Annie McCracken. Occupied by Harold Wade and family.
38. Owned by Mrs. Annie McCracken. Occupied by Sampson Smith and family.
39. Richard Grosser and family (Florist).
40. Benjamin Thuman.
41. Calaway's Store. (Destroyed by fire Dec. 29, 1933).
42. Fred L. Bascom and family.

MAP OF MIDDLEBUSH



TROOP I, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MIDDLEBUSH N. J.

On the third of September, 1929, a charter from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America was granted to a group of boys who had been meeting for several weeks in the basement of the Church. The first Troop Committee was Ralph W. Thomson, Chairman, Fred L. Bascom and C. G. Pomeroy.

Edward McMahon was the first Scoutmaster, and to him more than to any other is due the credit of organizing and establishing a Scout Troop in this community. Mr. McMahon, a scout from the famous Troop 20 of New Brunswick, worked practically unrecognized for nearly three years. Discouragements were plentiful and commendations scarce but perseverance prevailed and the troop began to prosper.

Some outstanding activities of the troop are the winning of the Hoover award in 1932 for achievement in a series of stated goals in good scouting. Another feature of the troop has been the annual banquet which was first held February 25, 1932. Every year parents, friends and Scout officials take the opportunity to attend this affair and learn first hand what the Scouts are doing.

The troop has had rallies with Dayton and several New Brunswick troops and in these contests have been a credit to the leadership and teaching of their officers. Overnight camping hikes and longer periods at the regular Scout Camp at Sackawawin, near Blairstown, N. J., are valuable for pleasure, experience and instruction in test passing.

LAUREN S. ARCHIBALD.



Troop Officers

Richard Merrill	Scout Master
Parker Hart	Assistant Scout Master

Patrol Leaders

Charles Dunham
James Twyman

Ass't Patrol Leaders

Irving Gulick
William Archibald

Troop Committeeman

	Lauren S. Archibald, Chairman
William E. Hart	Sampson G. Smith
Fred L. Bascom	J. Ernest McConnell

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 Amerman, Mrs. Francis
 Amerman, Susan
 Archibald, Lauren S.
 Archibald, Mrs. Lauren S.
 Archibald, William T.

B

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 Baird, Mrs. J. Vredenberg
 Bennett, Theodora S.

C

Cain, Mrs. Judson V.

D

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 Ditmars, Mrs. Delia
 Dolchy, Fred W.
 Dolchy, Mrs. Fred W.
 Drayton, Nellie

F

French, James
 French, John B.
 French, Mrs. John B.
 French, John B. Jr.
 French, Sarah

G

Garretson, Howard
 Garretson, Katherine
 Gulick, Augustus I.
 Gulick, Mrs. Augustus I.
 Gulick, I. Voorhees
 Gulick, William S.

H

Harding, Mrs. Nancy Pomeroy
 Hafley, Mrs. Josephine
 Hageman, Garretson
 Hageman, Peter C. S.
 Hageman, Mrs. Peter C. S.
 Herman, Edward
 Hummer, Ida

J

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K

Kline, Harry W.
 Kline, Mrs. Harry W.
 Kline, Wilson Nevin

M

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 McCracken, Helen M.
 McCracken, Margaret K.
 McMahon, Mrs. Anna Garretson
 McMahon, Edward H.
 Meyers, Charles A.

Meyers, Mrs. Charles V.

P

Packer, Mrs. Laura Cadmus
 Pennell, Frank C.
 Pennell, Mrs. Frank C.
 Pennell, Hiida Marie
 Pennell, Viola May
 Pomeroy, Chauncy G.
 Pomeroy, Mrs. Chauncy G.
 Pomeroy, Chauncy, Jr.
 Pomeroy, John A.

R

Roach, Joseph A.
 Roach, Mrs. Joseph A.
 Roth, Mrs. Marian Smalley

S

Smalley, Beatrice L.
 Smalley, Clarence Arthur
 Smalley, Mrs. Clarence Arthur
 Smith, Beatrice Amanda
 Smith, Elmer T.
 Smith, Mrs. Elmer T.
 Smith, Gladys Marion
 Smith, Herbert V. C.
 Smith, Mrs. Herbert V. C.
 Smith, Mrs. William S.
 Sperling, Eliza
 Staats, Henry P.
 Stryker, Elsie B.
 Stryker, Lewis
 Stryker, Lewis H.
 Sylvester, Mrs. Frances

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 Thomson, Mrs. Ralph W.
 Totten, A. Russell
 Totten, Mrs. A. Russell
 Totten, Mrs. Bertha
 Totten, Elizabeth V. N.
 Totten, Mrs. Florence
 Totten, Harry S.
 Totten, Mrs. Harry S.
 Totten, Helen Virginia
 Totten, John L.
 Totten, Mrs. John L.
 Totten, Julia V. D.
 Totten, Maude

V

Van Cleef, Bertha M.
 Van Cleef, Cornelius I.
 Van Cleef, Mrs. Cornelius I.
 Van Cleef, C. Irving
 Van Cleef, John H.

Van Middlesworth, Mrs. Annie S.
 Van Middlesworth, Charles Edgar
 Van Middlesworth, Helen R.
 Van Middlesworth, Katherine
 Voorhees, Harriett J.
 Voorhees, M. Amanda

W

Wade, Elton H. L.
 Wade, Mrs. Elton H. L.
 Wade, George Harold
 Wade, Mrs. George Harold

Woolsey, DeWitt C.
 Woolsey, Mrs. DeWitt C.

Y

Young, Benjamin
 Young, Mrs. Benjamin
 Young, John Benjamin

Z

Zimmerman, Mrs. Dorothy Totten
 Resident Minister
 Thomson, Rev. John A.

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B

Blum, John George

C

Clesick, Richard
 Curren, Arthur C. H.

D

Dahmer, Henry
 Dahmer, Mrs. Henry
 Delabar, Mrs. Catherine Dolchy
 Dunham, Mrs. Katherine

E

Erbe, Amelia

F

Fuess, Billings S.
 Fuess, Mrs. M.

G

Garretson, Mary Elizabeth
 Garretson, Isabelle
 Gillan, Jesse Stryker
 Gulick, Ida
 Gulick, Mildred
 Garretson, Edgar
 Garretson, Mrs. Lauretta M.
 Geddes, Charles

H

Hafley, Dorothy
 Housel, Alfred
 Hunger, Helen R.
 Hunger, Lillian O.

J

Jonas, Henry C.

M

MacEwing, Mrs. Jersey French
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 McCracken, Leonard
 McMahon, James L.
 Moffatt, Mrs. Helen Baird
 Morris, Mrs. Evelyn Van Middlesworth

N

Norton, John

P

Perpente, Mrs. Augustus

R

Rickborn, Frederick
 Rule, Mrs. Mary Cain

S

Seaman, Mrs. Florence Woolsey
 Scott, George L.
 Smith, H. LeRoy

T

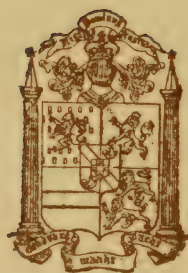
Thomson, John Seabury
 Totten, Arthur B.
 Totten, L. Guy

V

Van Middlesworth, John
 Van Sickle, Mrs. Linda Nelson

W

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